

Facts about Career and Technical Education in Montana ~ 2014-2015

Career and Technical Education prepares Montana K-12 students for a wide range of careers and postsecondary education programs. Career and Technical Education courses are found in Montana's middle schools, high schools and career centers.

Career and Technical Education courses provide students with life and employment skills to make them highly desirable employees in today's modern workforce. Skills learned in K-12 Career and Technical Education courses prepare students to enter the workforce or to continue their education with a much higher degree of focus and direction for their career goals.

Montana has 465 approved Career and Technical Education programs and 648 certified teachers in Agriculture, Business, Marketing, Family and Consumer Sciences, Industrial, Trades and Technology, and Health Science. More than 150 Montana high schools participate in the federal Carl D. Perkins and state Career and Technical Education grant programs to support and improve their Career and Technical Education programs.

In addition to skills learned in Career and Technical Education courses, many Montana students gain additional technical and leadership skills through participation in a Career and Technical Student Organization. The seven Career and Technical Student Organizations with active Montana chapters are FFA; Business Professionals of America (BPA); DECA, *An Association of Marketing Students*; Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA); HOSA, *Future Health Professionals*; SkillsUSA; and Technology Student Association (TSA).

Agriculture Education



- ❖ Agriculture is one of Montana's largest industries. Agriculture Education provides learning opportunities for students in Ag Business, Ag Research, Animal Science, Aquaculture, Forestry, Horticulture, Leadership, Mechanics, Natural Resources, Plant Science, Wildlife Management and other related areas.
- ❖ Montana agricultural education in 2014-2015 had 90 approved programs with 5,208 enrolled students. These programs include co-curricular FFA chapters with over 3,400 enrolled members.

Business Education



- ❖ Today's business and marketing students learn to use the most current technology and business practices, including CISCO networking academies and Oracle academies.
- ❖ 144 of Montana's public high schools had approved Business Education programs in 2014-15, making it the most-offered CTE program in the state. These programs served over 13,000 students in grades 9-12.
- ❖ Montana has two Career and Technical Student Organizations for Business Education programs: Business Professionals of America (BPA) and DECA. These 94 Montana BPA/DECA chapters provided additional business and marketing experience for over 2,100 students. Montana consistently has multiple top-ten competitive event placings at national BPA and DECA conferences.

Health Science Education



- ❖ Health Science Education in 2014-15 had 22 approved programs and they served over 2,000 students around the state.
- ❖ Health Science is an area of tremendous occupational opportunity in large cities and small towns alike.
- ❖ There is a critical shortage of healthcare workers in Montana as well as nationally. The need for healthcare workers is increasing as Montana's population ages.
- ❖ Healthcare is one of the fastest growing economic segments in Montana and the US.
- ❖ The student organization associated with Health Sciences is HOSA, *Future Health Professionals*. Montana had 22 HOSA chapters with 399 student members in 2014-15.



Family and Consumer Sciences Education



- ❖ Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) Education empowers individuals and families across the life span to manage the challenges of living and working in a diverse global society with a unique focus on preparation for family life, careers in FCS and their interrelationships. Montana had 102 approved FCS programs in 2014-15 serving more than 7,800 students.
- ❖ FCS curriculum areas include Consumer Services & Family Resources; Education & Early Childhood; Family & Community Services; Hospitality, Tourism & Recreation; Culinary Arts; Housing & Interiors; Human Development; Nutrition & Wellness; Parenting; and Textiles, Fashion & Apparel.
- ❖ Family, Career and Community Leaders of America is the only in-school student organization with family as its central focus. It is the student organization that functions as an integral part of FCS Education curriculum and provides opportunities for active student participation at local, state, and national levels. In 2014-15 Montana had 67 affiliated FCCLA chapters with over 1,000 members.

Industrial, Trades and Technology Education



- ❖ With 108 programs and over 12,100 students in 2014-15, Industrial, Trades and Technology Education is the second largest CTE program area in Montana.
- ❖ Industrial, Trades and Technology includes the program areas of Industrial/Technology Education and Trade and Industrial Education.
- ❖ Industrial Technology occupations are some of the highest paying, most highly technical occupations in Montana. Studies have shown that many "how-to" manuals for entry-level industrial technology occupations have a higher readability level than most college text books.
- ❖ Montana has two Career and Technical Student Organizations for the Industrial, Trades and Technology area. SkillsUSA and the Technology Student Association (TSA) combined have over 930 secondary members in 70 chapters. Some of the Colleges of Technology and MSU-Northern have post-secondary chapters.

